

our share of the New Arrangements to Borrow would be \$3.5 billion.

But while we must go through the appropriations process to make those funds available to the IMF, we get in return an interest bearing asset, so the overall budget effect is a wash. Let me repeat that—there is no budget outlay involved when we meet our commitment to increase the capacity of the IMF to meet international financial crises.

And yet, Mr. President, we face the very real threat that the United States will simply flub this chance to maintain its leadership. With the failure of the House to act on the quota, providing only the \$3.5 billion for the New Arrangements to borrow, we leave the rest of the world to wonder about our commitment to deal with the very serious problems that afflict our global economy.

Here in the Senate, we have been fortunate to have the benefit of real leadership on the issue of IMF funding. Senator STEVENS has made use of two opportunities to put the Senate on record in support of full funding for our participation in the IMF. My colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator HAGEL and Senator SARBANES, have lent their considerable energies and reputations to this effort.

There are few opportunities left in this session for us to put this right, Mr. President. The Congress is already seen by the rest of the world as reluctant to take an easy—and, I repeat, costless—step to increase the resources of the one institution we have that is in a position to intervene in this crisis. This can only add to the uncertainty that is at the bottom of the current market unrest.

Mr. President, there is every indication that we have a long, hard road between us and the end of the current financial turmoil. I hope that in the few weeks remaining to us this session we will take this one small step to start that journey.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 17, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,514,091,417,890.65 (Five trillion, five hundred fourteen billion, ninety-one million, four hundred seven thousand, eight hundred ninety dollars and sixty-five cents).

One year ago, September 17, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,394,894,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred ninety-four billion, eight hundred ninety-four million).

Five years ago, September 17, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,389,958,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty-nine billion, nine hundred fifty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 17, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$460,362,000,000 (Four hundred sixty billion, three hundred sixty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more

than \$5 trillion—\$5,053,729,417,890.65 (Five trillion, fifty-three billion, seven hundred twenty-nine million, four hundred seventeen thousand, eight hundred ninety dollars and sixty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

(During consideration of S. 2286, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments of 1998, on September 17, 1998, statements by Mr. LUGAR and Mr. SANTORUM were inadvertently omitted. The permanent RECORD will be corrected to include the following:)

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, but also to express disappointment with the manner in which it is being considered by the Senate. While I support the reauthorization of the federal nutrition and feeding programs, I had hoped for the opportunity to offer an amendment to the bill.

The amendment I had hoped to offer would enable the United States Department of Agriculture to purchase lower-priced, non-quota peanuts for use in school feeding programs. Adoption of this amendment would make school feeding programs more cost effective and free up funds to buy additional peanuts and other foods for both the school lunch program and other federal food assistance programs. The amendment would save \$14 million for the federal nutrition programs, money that could be put to use feeding more children and families.

I want to offer an explanation for why the amendment will not be considered and also to express my appreciation to those who were prepared to support it. Several Senators were ready to debate the merits of the amendment, and I appreciate their support. Other supporters include nutrition advocacy groups who have worked very hard on behalf of the amendment.

After our return from the August break, the Senate tried to clear this bill for action. Several Senators executed holds on the bill as a result of the amendment I intended to offer. Given the inability to remove those holds and given the few days that remain in the legislative calendar, I asked my Agriculture Committee Chairman, Senator LUGAR, to proceed with the bill so that he may get it to conference and hopefully enacted before adjournment in October.

For the benefit of my colleagues who know my longstanding opposition to the peanut program, let me make clear that my amendment would have done nothing to improve the price of peanuts for manufacturers of peanut products. Instead, it simply aimed to improve the operation of the school nutrition programs.

Generally speaking, peanuts cannot be grown and sold for human consumption in the United States unless the

grower has a quota. This quota is really a license, and it enables growers to obtain a premium price for their production. Non-quota peanuts grown in America are no different than their quota cousins, except for the price. Non-quota peanuts that are grown in the U.S. for the export market have an approximate price of \$350 per ton, whereas quota peanuts run as much as \$650 per ton.

My amendment would simply allow the United States government to buy non-quota peanuts at the same price that we sell American peanuts to foreign countries.

This step is not without precedent. In fact, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, which Congress authorized in 1996, has a similar provision to allow schools to be exempt from paying the artificially higher milk prices that are the result of the dairy compact.

Additionally, Congress has weighed this step in the past. The House Committee on Appropriations twice called attention to this problem in FY 1994 and FY 1995 Agriculture Appropriation Subcommittee Reports. The Subcommittee found that USDA would save approximately \$14.4 million in peanut and peanut product purchases for the food assistance program if USDA purchased non-quota peanuts.

In these two committee reports for the FY 1994 and FY 1995 Agriculture Appropriations' bills, the Committee directed the USDA to prepare and submit legislation to the appropriations committees of Congress to amend the peanut program. That legislation would require USDA to purchase non-quota peanuts at world prices for use in domestic feeding programs. To this point, I am not aware that the USDA has ever responded to the Committee's direction.

Mr. President, passage of this amendment makes sense. Peanut products are an extremely popular and nutritious food for millions of people, especially children. High concentrations of important minerals and valuable nutrients make this food an especially important one. If we provide a means for the federal government to buy peanuts for American school children for the same price that we sell American peanuts to consumers in other countries, we can save millions of dollars and enable the government to purchase nutritious food to help additional people.

Moreover, we can improve the school nutrition programs with a minimal cost to growers. Despite the suggestion of doom and gloom from the defenders of the peanut program, the amount of quota peanuts purchased for government food assistance programs is less than 2 percent of the national peanut quota production. Thus, this amendment would have a negligible effect on peanut quota holders—many of whom, I hasten to add, do not grow peanuts themselves.

Mr. President, federal feeding programs are very price sensitive. In times of high prices for specific commodities,

it is not uncommon for USDA to seek substitutes for even the most popular food items. In the early 1990s, for example, USDA temporarily suspended feeding program purchases of peanut butter because peanut prices had risen sharply. If the primary goal of the National School Lunch Program and food assistance programs is to alleviate this nation's malnutrition and hunger, it is wrong for the federal government to waste limited financial resources on buying quota peanuts to further support a small special interest group of peanut quota holders who are already subsidized by the American consumer.

Again, Mr. President, I support passage of the child nutrition reauthorization, but am disappointed in not being able to offer my amendment. I thank those that have worked so hard on its behalf. While the opportunity is not available today to offer the amendment, I have every intention of offering this proposal to relevant legislation in the future.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2286, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments of 1998. The child nutrition programs have been critically important in helping meet the nutritional needs of our children. The bill before us, which was unanimously reported out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, is a bipartisan effort to reauthorize and improve these successful programs. Nutrition programs in the Congress have a long history of bipartisan support and cooperation and I am pleased to report that this bill is no exception.

As an Indianapolis school board member and the city's mayor in the 1960's and 1970's, I saw firsthand the need to provide nutritional assistance to children. Since that time, the child nutrition programs have changed in many ways. Although the programs may need some fine tuning, today's programs have been successful in ensuring that our nation's children have access to nutritious foods, providing a critical nutrition safety net.

In 1997, approximately 89,000 schools enrolling 46 million children participated in the National School Lunch program. Although participation in the school breakfast program is not as large as that in the school lunch program, it has continued to grow. Since 1994, school breakfast participation has increased about 13 percent so that now over 70 percent of schools operating a school lunch program also operate a school breakfast program.

The WIC program, which provides nutritious foods and other support to lower-income infants and children (up to age 5), and pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, has been successful at reducing the number of low-birth-weight babies. Its success has led to strong support over the years. In 1997, average monthly WIC participation was 7.4 million persons. In many states, the program has reached the long sought after goal of full funding.

The bill before us makes improvements to the child nutrition programs. Recently we have seen reports on fraud and abuse in the WIC and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. S. 2286 strengthens the anti-fraud provisions in both programs. The bill requires WIC recipients to be physically present when being certified or recertified for the program. The bill also requires that recipients provide documentation of their income to prove that they are in fact eligible to participate in the program. The legislation cracks down on fraudulent vendors participating in the WIC program. Under most circumstances, WIC vendors who are convicted of trafficking will be permanently disqualified unless it can be proven that the disqualification will cause undue hardship for WIC recipients. In the Child and Adult Care Food Program, State agencies will be required to visit child care sites prior to approving participation by a provider.

The bill also makes amendments to streamline school food service operations. Specifically, S. 2286 allows schools to operate after-school snack programs through the National School Lunch Program rather than separately through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Without this change, those schools choosing to operate an after-school program, along with the school lunch program, would have to submit paperwork for two separate programs. Streamlining these operations will free up precious time so that school food service personnel can better serve our nation's children. The bill also improves access, for low-income children up to age 18, to the after-school snack and the summer food service programs.

The bill creates a new universal school breakfast pilot program that will evaluate the effect of providing free breakfasts to elementary school children, regardless of income, on school performance and dietary intake. The new spending in this bill is fully offset by rounding down reimbursement rates to the nearest whole cent for meals served by schools and child care centers.

Finally, the bill reauthorizes the child nutrition programs through fiscal year 2003.

Mr. President, S. 2286 was unanimously reported out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on June 25, 1998. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, thus ensuring that our nation's children continue to have access to these important programs.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. 2402. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands in San Juan County, New Mexico, to San Juan College.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7008. A communication from the Executive Director of the Presidio Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management of the Presidio" (RIN3212-AA01) received on September 15, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7009. A communication from the Executive Director of the State Justice Institute, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Institute's report under the rules of the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1996 and 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7010. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's report entitled "Plain Language Action Plan"; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

EC-7011. A communication from the President and the Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Center's annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7012. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, notice of routine military retirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7013. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eligible Basis Reduced by Federal Grants" (Rev. Rul. 98-49) received on September 16, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7014. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commerce in Explosives" (RIN1512-AB55) received on August 28, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7015. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Status of Certain Additional Over-the-Counter Drug Category II and III Active Ingredients" (Docket 98N-0636) received on September 16, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-7016. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services,